

Claims

5 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for configuring an internet file system, the method comprising:
accessing, by a user, a server that is configured with an application;
creating, by the application, an internet file system for the user;
10 storing, by a directory, a home folder of the user, wherein folders and files in the home folder are available at a root of the internet file system;
providing, by the application, a first folder and a second folder in a root of the home folder, the first folder containing folders that represent folders and files that have been shared with the user, and the second folder containing objects of the user and
15 communities that are of interest to the user; and
creating, by the application, an auxiliary class containing a first attribute, a second attribute, and a third attribute, wherein the first attribute is used to quickly find other users that the folders and the files in the home folder have been shared with, the second attribute is used to store names of the other users and a path of the folders and the files
20 that have been shared with the user, and the third attribute is used to allow the user and other users with common interests to share folders and files of the common interest.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising accessing, by the user, the internet file system.
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3. The method of claim 1 further comprising attaching the auxiliary class to a user object when the folders and the files are shared with the user.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling the user to modify
30 granted rights to the shared folders and the shared files.

5. The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling the user to disallow the sharing of the folders and the files.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising populating the first folder with the stored names of the other users and the path of the folders and the files that have been shared with the user.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising creating communities of users with common interests, wherein the communities are stored as groups in the directory and the users are members of the groups.

8. A method for file sharing, the method comprising:
sharing, by a first user, a file with a second user;
adding, by an application, the first user to a third attribute of the second user;
adding, by the application, the second user to a third attribute of the first user;
adding, by the application, a path of the shared file and a user name of the second user to a first attribute of the first user;
adding, by the application, the path of the shared file and a user name of the first user to a second attribute of the second user; and
making available, by the application, the first attribute through a folder of the second attribute, wherein the folder belongs to the second user.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising, if the first user modifies rights to the first attribute, determining by the application which user the folder has been shared with and what rights the user has been granted.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising notifying the second user, by the application, that the file has been shared with the second user.

11. The method of claim 8 further comprising placing, by the application, objects of the first user and the second user into a folder of the attribute that is located in an internet file system of the first user and in an internet file system of the second user.

5 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising sharing the objects by the first user and the second user.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein the first attribute is a shared path attribute.

10 14. The method of claim 8 wherein the second attribute is a received path attribute.

15 15. The method of claim 8 wherein the third attribute is a friend attribute.

16 16. The method of claim 8 wherein the first attribute, the second attribute, and the third attribute are located in a directory.

17 17. The method of claim 8 wherein the first user has a second attribute and the second user has a first attribute.

20 18. A method for creating user objects in a directory, the method comprising:
if a user shares a folder with another user who is not registered with an application in the directory, creating a temporary user object with an email address as a name of the another user;

25 submitting, by the another user, a registration form;
determining, by a script, if the email address corresponds with the another user;
and

if the email address corresponds with the another user, updating the temporary user object based on information provided in the registration form.

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19. The method of claim 18 further comprising, if there is no corresponding user object, creating a new user object based on the information provided.

20. The method of claim 18 further comprising monitoring, by the script,
5 interests the another user has submitted in the registration form.

21. The method of claim 20 further comprising associating each interest of the another user with a group object in a container of the application.

10 22. The method of claim 21 further comprising adding the another user as a member of each interest group.

23. The method of claim 22 further comprising adding the each interest group to a list of friends of the another user.

15 24. The method of claim 18 wherein the information includes at least one item from a group consisting of:

the email address;
a user name;
20 a password;
a first name;
a last name;
an address; and
interests.

25 25. A system for configuring an internet file system, the system comprises:
a server configured with an application, wherein a user accesses the application
and the application creates an internet file system for the user; and

a directory that stores a home folder of the user, wherein folders and files in the
30 home folder are available at a root of the internet file system, wherein the application

further provides a plurality of folders in a root of the home folder, and wherein the application further creates an auxiliary class containing a plurality of attributes.

26. The system of claim 25 wherein the plurality of folders includes a first
5 folder containing folders that represent folders and files that have been shared with the user, and a second folder containing objects of the user and communities that are of interest to the user.

27. The system of claim 25 wherein the plurality of attributes includes a first
10 attribute used to quickly find other users that the folders and the files in the home folder have been shared with, a second attribute used to store names of the other users and a path of the folders and the files that have been shared with the user, and a third attribute used to allow the user and other users with common interests to share folders and files of the common interest.

28. A system for file sharing, the system comprises:
means for sharing, by a first user, a file with a second user;
means for adding, by an application, the first user to a third attribute of the second
15 user;

20 means for adding, by the application, the second user to a third attribute of the first user;

a means for adding, by the application, a path of the shared file and a user name of the second user to a first attribute of the first user;

means for adding, by the application, the path of the shared file and a user name
25 of the first user to a second attribute of the second user; and

means for making available, by the application, the first attribute through a folder of the second attribute, wherein the folder belongs to the second user.

29. A user internet file system comprises:
a received folder that contains folders representing files and folders that have been shared with a user and the names of those who shared the files and folders with the user;
and

5 a friends folder that contains the user's objects and community folders that contain information that are of interest to the user.

30. The file system of claim 29 further comprises a root similar to a home folder of the user.

10 31. The file system of claim 30 wherein files and folders in the home folder are available at the root of the file system.

32. A directory comprises:
15 a user object;
a home folder of the user, wherein the home folder is an attribute of the user object;
an auxiliary class attached to the user object when files are shared with the user;
a community folder that includes topics of interest to the user; and
20 a group object associated with each topic of interest.

33. The directory of claim 32 wherein the auxiliary class is attached to the user object when the user shares files with other users.

25 34. A software application executable on a computer, the application comprising:
creating a user internet file system;
providing files in a root of a user's home folder; and
creating an auxiliary class attached to an object of the user if the files are shared
30 via the internet file system.